

Dear GAE Committee Members,

I am writing this email to be submitted as written testimony regarding House Bill 5262 and Senate Bill 184 which will have a public hearing March 4, 2022.

I am writing to oppose this legislation. Absentee voting should be limited to those who are personally sick and unable to vote in person. ANY other able bodied voter who will be present to vote should be required to do so in person.

The term sickness should be precisely defined to mean that the voter must be physically unable to appear at a voting location due to their own illness. No threat of potential illness should constitute eligibility for absentee ballot.

The security and verifiability of absentee voting in this state is very flawed and cannot be trusted at such a large scale. Connecticut does not have in place any reliable voter verification system.

Absentee ballot applications should only be mailed to those that request them. The 2020 decision to mass mail applications to all on the voter rolls was dangerous and wasteful. Hundreds of Thousands of these applications were mailed to deceased, moved, and ineligible voters. It is unknown how many may have been submitted illegally and accepted.

Sincerely,
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